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REMARKS

Claims 1-11, 13-19, 21 and 22 are pending, with claims 12 and 20 having previously been canceled, without prejudice or disclaimer. By this Amendment, claims 1, 8, 9, 11, 14, 15, 18, 19 and 21 have been amended to clarify the claimed subject matter. Claims 1-11, 13-19, 21 and 22 remain pending upon entry of this Amendment, with claims 1, 11 and 21 being in independent form.

Claims 1, 11 and 21 were objected to as purportedly having informalities. Claims 14 and 15 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §101 as allegedly not directed to patentable subject matter. Claim 1 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. §112, first paragraph, as allegedly failing to comply with the written description requirement. Claims 1, 8, 9, 14 and 15 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §112, second paragraph, as allegedly indefinite.

In response, the application has been amended to address the formal matters referenced in the Office Action, as well as otherwise.

Withdrawal of the objection to the claims, the rejection under 35 U.S.C. §101 and the rejections under 35 U.S.C. §112 is respectfully requested.

Claims 1-8, 10, 11, 13-18, 21 and 22 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as purportedly anticipated by Nevo (US 6,224,553).

Further, applicant respectfully submits that the present application is allowable over the cited art, for at least the reason that the cited art does NOT disclose or suggest the aspects of the present application of (i) collecting *CT or MR head image data* of a person being examined, (ii) forming a tomogram from the *CT or MR head image data*, (iii) calculating at least one biological function data in the tomogram, *formed based on the CT or MR head image data*, regarding temporal changes in values of the same pixels or section of an organ (in the head of the

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person) with passage of time, and (iv) displaying functional images by using different gradation color scale corresponding to the evaluated value of the *biological function data (determined from the tomogram formed based on the CT or MR head image data)*.

Nevo, as understood by applicant, proposes an approach for processing data obtained through ultrasound techniques, to evaluate the mechanical variability of the heart activity by assessment of the variability of cardiologic echo Doppler images, and enhance contrast ultrasound imaging by variability imaging of two-dimensional echo images through the application of finite memory, ECG gated or ungated processing of the acquired images.

However, Nevo does not involve the collection and processing of CT or MR head image data, much less the other aforementioned aspects of the present application of forming a tomogram from the CT or MR head image data, calculating at least one biological function data in the tomogram, formed based on the CT or MR head image data, regarding temporal changes in values of the same pixels or section of an organ (in the head of the person) with passage of time, and displaying functional images by using different gradation color scale corresponding to the evaluated value of the biological function data (determined from the tomogram formed based on the CT or MR head image data).

Applicant submits that the cited art, even when considered along with common sense and common knowledge to one skilled in the art, does *NOT* render unpatentable, the aforementioned aspects of the present application.

Accordingly, applicant respectfully submits that independent claims 1, 11 and 21, and the claims depending therefrom, are allowable over the cited art.

In view of the remarks hereinabove, applicant submits that the application is now allowable, and earnestly solicits the allowance of the application.

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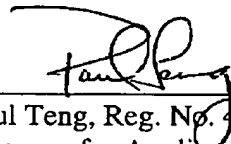
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However, if the Examiner can suggest an amendment that would advance this application to condition for allowance, the Examiner is respectfully requested to call the undersigned attorney.

If a petition for an extension of time is required to make this response timely, this paper should be considered to be such a petition. The Patent Office is hereby authorized to charge any required fees in connection with this amendment, and to credit any overpayment, to our Deposit Account No. 03-3125.

Respectfully submitted,



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